(b) whether India has any on-going contracts for supply of arms with any of these G-8 nations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) India has developed a large indigenous industrial base for meeting its defence requirements. The government also supplements this with arms supply from other advanced nations, including from G-8, where required.

Visit of Afghan Minister to India

2573. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the outcome of visit of Afghan Foreign Minister recently in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan visited India from 3-4 July 2005. During his visit he called on the Prime Minister and held talks with the External Affairs Minister. In the meetings with Indian leaders, bilateral issues including India's assistance towards Afghanistan's reconstruction were discussed. Regional and international issues of common concern were also discussed in the meetings.

Terrorist Training Camps in Pakistan

†2574. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has stated in an interview with BBC while attending the meeting of G-4 Countries held in London recently that our country has proof of training camps running for terrorists in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Pakistan had denied this report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have apprised the World community about the said proof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details of the action taken/ proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Pakistan Foreign Office has denied that there are any terrorist training camps in Pakistan.

(d) and (e) In the January 6, 2004 Indo-Pak Joint Statement, Pakistan made a commitment not to permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. In the Joint Statement made during the visit of President Musharraf on April 18, 2005, both countries reaffirmed the commitments made in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004. However, Pakistan has so far not taken any significant action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism, such as communications, launching pads, training camps, funding, etc. Government have been keeping the international community sensitized on this aspect.

Relations with Sri Lanka

2575. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are giving an impression that it is more yielding rather than asserting our rights and sovereignty while negotiating and agreeing with neighbouring countries particularly with Sri Lanka including the issue of Katchatheevu;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Sri Lanka Government has raised certain environmental issues in respect of Sethu Samudram Canal Project suggesting joint monitoring; and

(c) the policy initiative of Government on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. Katchativu Island lies on the Sri Lankan side of the India-Sri Lanka International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). The IMBL was settled by a 1974 Agreement demarcating it in the Palk Straits and a subsequent Agreement in 1976 demarcating it in the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal. These agreements were subsequently laid before Parliament.